


REMARKS

The present application was filed January 13, 2006, as a national stage application of PCT/EP2004/007794, filed 14 July 2004. The application was filed in German with only one claim (claim 1, in German) and a Preliminary Amendment cancelling claims 2-22. Applicants filed a translation of the application and an executed oath/declaration by the inventors on December 6, 2006.

In the present preliminary amendment, applicants request that pending claim 1 be cancelled and new claims 23-44 be added. Claims 23-44 are substantially the same as the claims filed in the corresponding international application, PCT/EP2004/007794, except for amendments to remove multiple dependency and to improve the form and grammar of the claims. Claims 23-44 add no new matter that goes beyond the international application as filed. Applicants request entry of this preliminary amendment.

No fees are believed to be due with respect to the filing of this Preliminary Amendment. If any fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 11-0171 for such sum. If the Examiner has any questions regarding the present application, the Examiner is cordially invited to contact Applicants' attorney at the telephone number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John J. Santalone", is written over a horizontal line.

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